Medlearn Matters
Information for Medicare Providers

CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3284

Related CR Release Date: May 28, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: R84OTN

Effective Date: October 1, 2004

Implementation Date: October 4, 2004

Medlearn Matters Number: 3284

Reporting Medicare Secondary Payer Information on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 X12N 837, Created Via the Free Billing Software

Note: This article was revised to include web addresses that conform to the new CMS website.

Provider Types Affected

All providers who use free billing software from Medicare for HIPAA 837.

Provider Action Needed

STOP – Impact to You

All providers who use free (or low cost) billing software from Medicare for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) 837 must receive a software upgrade related to Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) from their carrier, durable medical equipment regional carrier, or intermediary. Changes included in the updated software will be required for electronic submission of such claims (when there is one primary payer to Medicare).
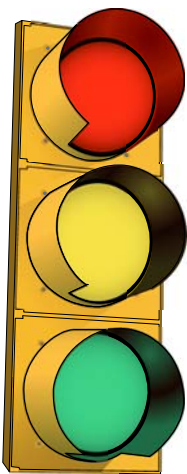
Note that the HIPAA 837 does not accommodate the data Medicare needs when there is more than one primary payer. Providers must submit these types of MSP claims to Medicare on paper.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Please be sure to submit claims in the correct format to avoid delays in claims processing.

GO – What You Need to Do

If you use the billing software supplied by a Medicare carrier or intermediary, please obtain the required software upgrade after October 4, 2004 from your carrier/intermediary to ensure accurate electronic claims processing.

Additional Information

If you have questions regarding this issue, contact your carrier or intermediary on their toll-free number.

If you bill for Medicare Part A services, including outpatient hospital services, the toll free number for your carrier/intermediary may be found online at
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/downloads/MedicarePartAEDIHelpline.pdf on the CMS web site.

If you bill for Medicare Part B services, the toll-free number may be found at
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/downloads/MedicarePartBEDIHelpline.pdf on the CMS web site.

The official instruction issued to the carrier/intermediary regarding this change can be found online, referenced via CR NUM 3284, at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R84OTN.pdf on the CMS web site.